

Dali: "There has never been a great French painter"

MADRID, Spain (UPI) — Artist Salvador Dali, in frail health but still feisty, said in interview published today that modern artists are "losers" who know only how to "hang their paintings upside down."

"Artists are like truffles," the 80-year-old surrealist painter told the "El Pais" newspaper. "There are places where they grow and others where they don't."

With the exception of Picasso and Juan Gris, the eccentric Dali said "all the others are losers. All they know how to do is hang their paintings upside down."

Dali, dressed in a white tunic and a silver-buckled belt, refused to allow a photographer during the 1½-hour interview, his first meeting with the press since April 1983.

"I don't want to be seen with this tube in my nose," he explained.

Dali, in frail health since suffering serious burns in an August 30 bedroom fire, cannot walk without help and is fed through a tube in his nose.

He has lived in seclusion at an apartment adjoining the Dali Museum in his native town of Figueras since being released from the hospital in October. Before the fire, he lived secluded in a restored 12th-Century castle at Pubol, where periodic reports emerged about his eccentric behavior.

In the interview today, Dali said there has never been a great French painter and that without King Louis XIV and his Versailles Palace, "France would be a field of brussels sprouts and artichokes."

Dali had nothing better to say for Spain's late abstract artist Joan Miro.

"Seeing his paintings from afar is enough. They're all the same," he said.



SAN NICOLAS—Deputy Grace Bareño reopened the branch of the Public Library in San Nicolas Monday afternoon in a symbolic manner by putting the first stamp in a book for adults. The branch was restored in such a way as to give optimal service to the people of San Nicolas and its surroundings. Also present at the opening ceremony was the director of the Public Library, Alice van Romondt and employees of the San Nicolas branch.

VIRUS CAUSES ILLNESS THAT COULD BE DENGUE FEVER

Recently, there has been a large number of people with an acute febrile illness. This illness is caused by a virus, and the government health authorities are investigating the possibility that it is the dengue virus.

Dengue fever is spread by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito, which injects the virus when it takes its blood meal. The symptoms of dengue fever are basically the same as for the common flu. Until the results of the

tests are known, it would be wise for all island residents to check their homes, patios, and gardens for mosquitoes. Breeding areas, such as standing water, should be eliminated. Insecticides should be used carefully, as needed.



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